

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CY, GR

SUBJECT: CYPRUS: EOKA-B'S KAROUSOS REPORTED RETURN

REF: FBIS 201008Z SEP 74

1. GEORGE KAROUSOS, RETIRED MAJOR HA AND ALLEGED FORMER EOKA-B LEADER, TOLD TO VIMA CORRESPONDENT SEPTEMBER 22 THAT HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO CYPRUS TO OFFER HIS SERVICES TO ASSIST IN UNIFICATION OF ALL GREEK/CYPRIOT FORCES AGAINST COMMON ENEMY. IN LENGTHY INTERVIEW HE OUTLINED HIS GOALS AS ATTEMPTING TO PACIFY VARIOUS COMMANDERS AND TO ADVISE ENOSIS FIGHTERS WHO ARE NOW IN DISARRAY. KAROUSOS ADDED MODESTLY THAT HE DOES NOT PROPOSE TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AS ENOSIST LEADER NOR DOES HE INTEND TO REMAIN IN CYPRUS INDEFINITELY. KAROUSOS WHO USUALLY IS REGARDED AS MODERATE AMONG EOKA-B HOTHEADS AND WHO REPORTEDLY EXERCISED RESTRAINING INFLUENCE AGAINST EOKA-B CADRE ADVOCATING REMOVAL OF PRESIDENT MAKARIOS DECLARED HE FAVORED MAKARIOS' RETURN. INTERVIEWER RECALLED THAT KAROUSOS HAD BEEN FORCED TO RETURN TO GREECE IN FEBRUARY, 1974 AND WAS DETAINED IN MILITARY POLICE PRISON FOR HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN CONSPIRACY TO TOPPLE NOVEMBER 25 JUNTA.

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2. KAROUSOS' SEEMINGLY REASONABLE OUTLOOK PROMPTED AKROPOLIS IN EDITORIAL TO COMMEND KAROUSOS DECISION TO RETURN TO CYPRUS AND TO WISH HIM GODSPEED IN INFLUENCING ENOSISTS. EDITORIAL LAMENTED BEST ALLY OF TURKS WAS DIVISIVENESS OF GREEKS IN CYPRUS.

3. COMMENT: EARLIER REPORTING INDICATES KAROUSOS' STANDING IN EOKA-B SHIFTED FROM GRIVAS' HEIR IN EARLY FEBRUARY, 1974 FOLLOWING LATTER'S DEATH TO RANK-AND-FILE MEMBER WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER EOKA-B REPORTEDLY DIVIDED OVER POLITICIZATION VERSUS VIOLENCE. HIS STANDING WITH BRIG. GENERAL IAONNIDES AND JUNTA REMAINS UNCLEAR BUT IN ANY CASE IS NOW OF REDUCED SIGNIFICANCE. WHILE HARD INFORMATION ON KAROUSOS STANDING WITHIN ENOSIS MOVEMENT AND RELATIONSHIP WITH GREEK JUNTA IS INCONCLUSIVE, HIS REPORTED MODERATION REINFORCES AKROPOLIS VIEW THAT HIS PRESENCE IN CYPRUS MAY HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT. EMBASSY HAS NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM REPORT OF KAROUSOS' RETURN TO CYPRUS. EMBASSY IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP INFORMATION ON KEY QUESTION WHETHER KAROUSOS CARRIES WITH HIM GOG SANCTION. WILL REPORT FURTHER AS INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.
KUBISCH

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